

# DOXA

The monthly newsletter of  
Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church  
Falls Church, Virginia  
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saint-katherines.org

## THEOTOKOS

WHAT'S IN A NAME? Orthodox Christians call the mother of Jesus "Theotokos." The precise translation is "the one who gives birth to the One Who is God." This is the best translation for us, written by historian Jaroslav Pelikan.

We refer to the Theotokos as "ever virgin" because the conception of the babe in her womb is from the Holy Spirit. "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the most high will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:30). The Theotokos is the most important human being. She allows humanity to become reunited again with the Divine One.

There are some beautiful hymns to the Theotokos that many of us know and the rest of us should learn. The "Axion Estin" is in honor of the Theotokos:

Άξιον εστίν ως αληθώς  
μακαρίζειν σε την Θεοτόκον,  
την αιμακάριστον και παναμώμητον  
και μητέρα του Θεού ημών.  
Την τιμιωτέραν των Χερουβείμ  
και ενδοξοτέραν ασυγκρίτως των Σεραφείμ  
την αδιαφθόρωσ Θεόν Λόγον τεκούσαν,  
την όντως Θεοτόκον, σε μεγαλύνομεν

It is truly right to bless thee,  
O Theotokos,  
ever blessed, and most pure,  
and the Mother of our God.  
More honorable than the cherubim,  
and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim.  
Without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word.  
True Theotokos, we magnify thee.

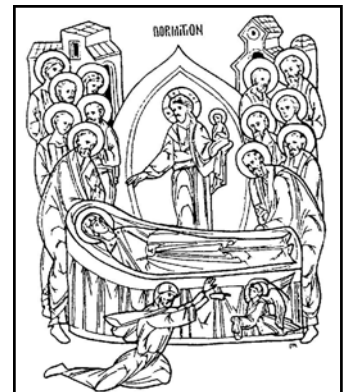
We also remember the Theotokos in the "Salutations to the Theotokos":

Rejoice, thou through whom joy will flash forth!  
Rejoice, thou through whom the curse will cease!  
Rejoice, revival of fallen Adam!  
Rejoice, redemption of the tears of Eve!  
Rejoice, height hard to climb for human thoughts!  
Rejoice, depth hard to contemplate even for the eyes of Angels!  
Rejoice, thou who art the King's throne!  
Rejoice, thou who bearest Him Who bears all!  
Rejoice, star that causeth the Sun to appear!  
Rejoice, womb of the divine incarnation!

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Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church**

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Korinna Garbis	703-932-9151	kgarbis@gmail.com	Pierre Tavoularis	703-573-6235	Pierros@cox.net

**CHURCH MINISTRIES**

Adult Bible Study (Sundays)	Bill Polizos	571-434-7790	polizos@att.com
	Bill Porter	703-901-2404	beporter1@verizon.net
Adult Bible Study (Mondays)	Gregory McKinney	571-338-6929	dintym@hotmail.com
Adult Catechetical (Sunday) School	Bill Polizos	571-434-7790	polizos@att.com
Youth Catechetical (Sunday) School	Christian Demeter, Principal	703-534-5669	cdemeter@excite.com
Greek School	Sophia Tsangali, Principal	703-671-5820	stsangali@stkchurch.com
Journey to Orthodoxy (An intro class to the Orthodox Faith)	Elena Ziu	703-825-7245	Dogwood_Academy@cox.net
PAIDEIA Bilingual Preschool	Georgia Kazakis		
	Maria Papatthanassiou, Director	703-671-7715	mpapatthanassiou@gopaideia.org
Acolyte Captains	Anastasios Galatis		
AHEPA #370 (Mt. Vernon)	George K. Eliades, President	703-383-0073	geliades@verizon.net
AHEPA #438 (P. Derzis)	Vasilis Fotopoulos, President	703-723-6229	fuhuaxi@gmail.com
Bookstore	Christopher and Frances Kalavritinos	703-671-1515	
Book Club	Christina Vazquez	703-723-7424	czvmail@aol.com
Choir	TBD		
Daughters of Penelope Helle #283	Lynn Francis, President	703-978-4370	elfran@cox.net
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GOYA (ages 13-18)	Tiffani Wills, President	703-948-7950	tiffani_wills@bullis.org
GRACE	Maria Papageorgiou	703-631-9430	times8@cox.net
Greek School Auxiliary	Elena Lagos, President	703-241-1176	pedakia@aol.com
HOPE (ages 7 and under)	Kelly Alexis	703-909-2256	kalexis76@gmail.com
JOY (ages 8-12)	Tina Papamichael, Director	703-536-4711	athena02@verizon.net
Listserv (email list)	Presv. Pauline Pavlakos	703-239-2627	przpauline@stkchurch.com
Missions and Outreach	Dr. John Demakis	703-319-1610	jgd11@starpower.net
Nursery	Martha Lemondes	703-599-1386	marthalemondes@aol.com
Parish Committees, List of	http://saint-katherines.org/about_us/parish-committees		
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Safeway Rewards	Elvira Garnett	703-425-3675	villa45@hotmail.com
Website	Presv. Pauline Pavlakos	703-239-2627	przpauline@stkchurch.com
YAL	Helen Spanos, President	703-801-5289	haspanos87@yahoo.com

## PARISH COUNCIL

DEAR SAINT KATHERINE FAMILY,

I hope this finds you all well and enjoying summer! Our Festival was a GREAT success!! Many thanks to Chairman George Moshos and his committee, to the many volunteers, and to those Stewards who support the Festival with their generous donations! Yes, the Festival was a financial success, but more important was the cooperative work of so many Stewards who showed their love for our Orthodox faith and our Greek culture.

Our Missions and Outreach Committee keeps working throughout the summer. In August, we will once again collect NEW children's athletic shoes in sizes 5, 6, and 7. Please share your blessings with those less fortunate. We send our prayers and good wishes with Greg McKinney who will be going to Alaska in July. He will be part of an OCMC teaching team, organizing a church camp for children and teens in Kodiak Island.

Our 8th Vacation Bible Camp was enjoyed by more than 60 children between the ages of 4 and 13. We appreciate the many hours put in by our volunteer teachers, assistants, and parents. A BIG thank you to AHEPA #438 for once again sponsoring this week-long camp for our Orthodox youth. Their steadfast faith in this important ministry has allowed us to offer the camp for 8 years. Thank you also to the Northern Virginia chapter of the American Hellenic Institute for their generous donation.

The work of our church and its needs do not take a summer vacation. Please continue to fulfill your 2011 Stewardship pledges. We are also creating a special fund for a new a/c unit in church. Those of you who have been in church over the past few months have noticed that it gets quite warm. If you would like to make a donation towards this project, please write "new a/c unit" in the memo section of your check.

Wishing you all safe and happy travels, I am

Your servant in Christ,  
*Daphne Papamichael*

### JULY CHURCH DUTY ROSTER

<u><b>July 3, 2011</b></u>	<u><b>9:30am</b></u>
Antonia Chelpon, Captain Frances Campbell Chris Euripides Daphne Papamichael	Maria Papathanassiou Bill Porter Christina Vazquez
<u><b>July 10, 2011</b></u>	<u><b>9:30am</b></u>
Korinna Garbis, Captain Andrea Ballard Chris Christou Christian Demeter	Bill Polizos Pierre Tavoularis Maria Wills
<u><b>Jul 17, 2011</b></u>	<u><b>9:30am</b></u>
Frances Campbell, Captain John Andre Iacovos Ioannou Costas Mavromatakis	Maria Papathanassiou Bill Porter George Silis
<u><b>July 24, 2011</b></u>	<u><b>9:30am</b></u>
Chris Euripides, Captain Christian Demeter Korinna Garbis Daphne Papamichael	Bill Polizos Pierre Tavoularis Christina Vazquez
<u><b>July 31, 2011</b></u>	<u><b>9:30am</b></u>
Bill Porter, Captain John Andre Antonia Chelpon Iacovos Ioannou	Daphne Papamichael Pierre Tavoularis Maria Wills

### MASTER CHURCH CALENDAR (<http://saint-katherines.org/calendar>)



All organizations are asked to send their September 2011-August 2012 calendars to Presv. Pauline Pavlakos (przpauline@stkchurch.com) by August 14, so that the information can be entered into the church's master calendar. Thank you.

### AUGUST CHURCH DUTY ROSTER

<u><b>August 7, 2011</b></u>	<u><b>9:30am</b></u>
Andrea Ballard, Captain Chris Christou Christian Demeter Korinna Garbis	Martha Lampros Bill Polizos Christina Vazquez
<u><b>August 14, 2011</b></u>	<u><b>9:30am</b></u>
Iacovos Ioannou, Captain Frances Campbell Costas Mavromatakis Maria Papathanassiou	Bill Porter George Silis Pierre Tavoularis
<u><b>August 21, 2011</b></u>	<u><b>9:30am</b></u>
Maria Wills, Captain John Andre Andrea Ballard Christian Demeter	Chris Euripides Martha Lampros Maria Wills
<u><b>August 28, 2011</b></u>	<u><b>9:30am</b></u>
Christina Vazquez, Captain Antonia Chelpon Chris Christou Korinna Garbis	Costas Mavromatakis Daphne Papamichael Maria Papathanassiou

## CATECHETICAL (SUNDAY) SCHOOL

DURING LENT, the children of our Catechetical School made donations to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center. This was an opportunity to focus on the principles of stewardship. The children, with the support of their parents, were very generous contributing \$669 to support this Orthodox outreach effort. Thank you for your generosity.

There are many important days celebrated by our Church during the summer months. On July 20, we commemorate the Prophet Elias. "Elias spent his entire youth in divine contemplation and prayer, withdrawing frequently into the wilderness to contemplate and pray in tranquility...On Mount Tabor he appeared together with Moses beside our Lord Jesus Christ. At the end of the world, Elias will appear again, to put an end to the power of Antichrist" (*The Prologue of Ohrid*, pp. 82-83).

The Great Martyr Panteleimon is commemorated on July 27. "Panteleimon was born in Nicomedia of a Christian mother and a pagan father...As a young man, he studied the science of medicine. The priest Hermolaus befriended him, taught him the Christian Faith and baptized him. Panteleimon miraculously cured a blind man whom other doctors had treated in vain; he healed him by the name of Christ and baptized him" (*The Prologue of Ohrid*, p. 109).

The fast in contemplation and commemoration of the Dormition of the Most-Holy Theotokos begins on August 1 and concludes on August 15. "The Lord Who, on Mount Sinai, gave the Fifth Commandment, *Honor thy father and thy mother*, showed by His own example how one should respect one's parents. Hanging on the Cross in agony, He remembered His Mother, and indicating the Apostle John He said to her: *Woman, behold thy son*. After that, He said to John: *Behold thy mother*. And so, providing for His Mother, He breathed His last. John had a home on Mount Zion, in Jerusalem, in which the Theotokos then lived. She dwelt there to the end of her days on earth"... "In her old age she often prayed to her Lord and God on the Mount of Olives, the site of His Ascension, that He take her from this world as soon as possible. On one of these occasions, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and revealed to her that she would find repose within three days" (*The Prologue of Ohrid*, p. 183). Indeed, the special commemorations mentioned above enrich the days of summer and turn attention to contemplation and worship. They enrich our spiritual life.

A reminder to our parents: Catechetical School registration for 2011-2012 will transpire on September 11, after the Divine Liturgy in the hall where coffee is served. The first day of classes will begin on Sunday, September 18.

### CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD 2011

The Linwood-MacDonald YMCA Center, New Jersey

July 10-16: JOY (ages 8-12)

July 17-23: GOYA 1 (ages 13-18)

July 24-30: GOYA 2 (ages 13-18)

For more information, contact the Metropolis Youth Office at youth@nj.goarch.org or 908-301-0500.

## GOYA

GOYA WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE GORANITIS FAMILY for hosting a GOYA Pool Party on Memorial Day Weekend. Everyone had a wonderful time!

Congratulations and Axios to the 2011-2012 GOYA board: President, Tiffani Wills; First Vice President, Maria Kosmakos; Second Vice President, Eleni Voudouris; Treasurer, Chris Bota; Co-Treasurer: Stavros Voudouris; Secretary, Alexandra Kosmakos; Sergeant-at-Arms, Argy Kosmakos; Historian, Thalia Falcon; and Co-Historian, Theano Goranitis.

Congratulations to our graduating seniors: Alexandra Kosmakos, Dimitra Kosmakos, Yianno McCarthy, Peter Patrianakos, Jimmy Psihas, and Flori Stavros. We wish you well in your future endeavors.

GOYA plans to visit Busch Gardens in Williamsburg on Thursday, August 25, staying overnight at the Marriott Courtyard. We will drive to Busch Gardens in parents' cars.

## PAIDEIA

WE'VE COMPLETED ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR and put away our books. We've said "happy summer" to our teachers and students, and congratulated our graduates. We also said "farewell" to our first director, Mrs. Marilena Tsirigotakis-Michalas. She will remain in our hearts and we wish her all the best.

During the summer, we will be preparing for the new school year. Our aim is to continue to provide our children with a special experience that will sustain them throughout their academic careers. As the new director, I look forward to working with the teachers, the parents, and the Parish Council to contribute to the spiritual and academic development of our students. This is a great responsibility that I embrace fully because it is also a great joy.

In the meantime, the Saint Katherine Summer Camp Program is under way. Join us July 5-August 12 for wild adventures, vivid stories, fun activities, and lively music. Weekly themes include: Crafty Creations, Movin' to the Music (Greek Folk Dance), Baking Basics, Amazing Animals, Exploring Ellada, Melody Making (Musical Instruments). For more information, please see page 7 or call 703-963-6020.

PAIDEIA Bilingual Preschool conducts a unique, faith-based program in which children learn about the Greek Orthodox faith, Hellenic ideals and culture, and the Greek language. Our mission is to instill an early enthusiasm for learning, to offer a loving and safe environment, and to provide a curriculum that will ready the children for their next developmental level while enhancing their moral and cultural growth. Our day school is the only one of its type in the Washington area. I invite parents of children ages 2-5 to learn more about us by contacting me at 703-671-7715.

Καλό Καλοκαίρι! See you in September!

*María Papathanassiou*  
Paideia Preschool Director

## Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ ΚΟΣΜΑΣ Ο ΑΙΤΩΛΟΣ

Σοφία Δ. Τσαγκάλη

ΜΕΣΑ ΣΤΑ ΝΕΦΗ ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ, μαρτύρων και εθναποστόλων της εκκλησίας μας σημαντική θέση κατέχει μία ξεχωριστή, αγία μορφή, που ιδιαίτερα τιμάμε το καλοκαίρι και μάλιστα στις 24 Αυγούστου, που δεν είναι άλλη, παρά ο άγιος Κοσμάς ο Αιτωλός, ο πατρο-Κοσμάς, όπως πολλοί τον αποκαλούν.

Το όνομά του μέχρι 20 ετών ήταν Κωνσταντίνος και μέχρι τότε υπήρξε ένας αγράμματος σκαφτιάς. Η μεγάλη του κλίση όμως στην παιδεία και στην θρησκεία ήταν ακατανίκητη. Αυτό που επιθυμούσε ήταν να μορφωθεί για να σταθεί δίπλα στους συνανθρώπους του, το οποίο και κατόρθωσε με επιτυχία. Τελειώνοντας το σχολείο εργάστηκε ως δάσκαλος στους νέους της Αιτωλοακαρνανίας. Όταν όμως έμαθε πως στο Άγιος Όρος ιδρύθηκε η Αθωνιάδα Σχολή αμέσως έτρεξε εκεί, όπου εμαθήτευσε κοντά στους λογίους της εποχής εκείνης, όπως τον Ευγένιο Βούλγαρη και τόσους άλλους. Διδάχθηκε Φιλοσοφία, Ιατρική και άλλα πολλά, αλλά το σημαντικότερο που έμαθε ήταν πώς έπρεπε να γίνει εθναπόστολος και ιεροκήρυκας σε όλη την Ελλάδα.

Αυτό το έργο όμως ήταν πολύ δύσκολο και βαρύ. Η μόρφωση που είχε δεν του ήταν αρκετή, έπρεπε να μορφωθεί και πνευματικά, γι' αυτό χρίστηκε καλόγερος στην Μονή Φιλοθέου. Εκεί, επί 17 χρόνια, μέρα με τη μέρα, χάλκευε τον χαρακτήρα του, προετοιμάζοντάς τον για τα κηρύγματά του. Στην ωριμότερη ηλικία του των 46 ετών ήταν πιά ψυχικά μεστωμένος. Τα μάτια του έλαμπαν από ουράνιο φως και με βαθειά συναίσθηση της αποστολής του ξεκίνησε το έργο του, εφοδιασμένος και με την πατριαρχική άδεια, κατάφερνε να κινείται παντού.

Μεγάλη υπήρξε η δράση του στην Θράκη, στην Ήπειρο, στην Στερεά Ελλάδα, στα νησιά του Ιονίου και του Αιγαίου Πελάγους. Οι εκκλησίες, όπου κήρυττε, ήταν κατάμεστες, δεν χωρούσαν τον κόσμο που έτρεχε να ακούσει τις θεάρεστες νουθεσίες του. Πολλές φορές συγκέντρωνε τον λαό στην πλατεία και μιλούσε κάτω από τον ίσκιο του Σταυρού. Σε κάθε μέρος που μιλούσε, κατασκεύαζε ένα ψηλό ξύλινο σταυρό και τον έστηνε εκεί. Στη βάση του τοποθετούσε ένα καρεκλάκι, όπου ανέβαινε και από εκεί κήρυττε απλά, ζωντανά, παραστατικά. Η γλώσσα, που χρησιμοποιούσε, ήταν φλογερή, αλλά και καυτερή και συγκλόνιζε τα πλήθη. Τότε κατέβαινε από το καρεκλάκι, το διέλυε και το έπαιρνε μαζί του για να το χρησιμοποιήσει στο επόμενο μέρος που θα κήρυττε. Τον Σταυρό τον άφηνε εκεί, για να θυμούνται το κήρυγμά του. Κάθε σταυρός, κι έστηνε χιλιάδες τέτοιους, ήταν άσβηστη φλόγα, που ζέσταινε τις καρδιές των ραγιαδών. Του καταφιλούσαν τα ασκητικά χέρια, τα τριμμένα ράσα, τα σκονισμένα πόδια. Η τελευταία πορεία του στην Ήπειρο έμοιαζε σαν απέραντη θρησκευτική λιτανεία. Το φαινόμενο αυτό ήταν μαναδικό στα χρονικά της Εκκλησίας και του Έθνους.

Πολλοί λένε και είναι πραγματικότητα, πως, αν δεν υπήρχε το εθνοσωτήριο κήρυγμα του πατρο-Κοσμά, ίσως

(Continued on page 11, column 2)

## 2011-2012 SAINT KATHERINE GREEK SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

THE GENERAL NORM of acceptance for enrollment to Saint Katherine Greek School is children of registered stewards and adult stewards of Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church. Students entering Pre-Kindergarten must be 4 years old and Kindergarten must be 5 years old by August 31, 2011. A current copy of their immunization records must be presented at registration.

**Tuition for stewards is \$450 for the 1st child, \$425 for the 2nd child, \$400 for the 3rd child, and \$400 for the 4th child.**

**Tuition for non-stewards is \$500.00.**

*(Tuition may be paid in full or in two installments.)*

**Classes for children begin:**

Friday, September 9, 5:00pm-7:00pm

Saturday, September 10, 9:30am-1:30pm

*(Greek Folk Dancing will be offered during the school hours)*

**Classes for adults begin:**

Thursday, September 15, 6:00pm-7:30pm (Intermediate)

Thursday, September 15, 7:30pm-9:00pm (Advanced)

Tuesday, September 20, 6:00pm-7:30pm (Introductory II)

Tuesday, September 20, 7:30pm-9:00pm (Introductory I)

**Please print all information clearly:**

Student's name in English:

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's name in Greek:

\_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Greek School grade in September 2011: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mother's name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Home address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency name, phone, and relationship:

\_\_\_\_\_

Baptized in the Orthodox faith: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Stewards of Saint Katherine: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card (circle one): Visa | MasterCard | American Express

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Code on back of card: \_\_\_\_\_

*Registration will take place during the months of June and July, Monday through Friday, during the office hours of 9:00am to 5:00pm and on Sunday, September 4 after the Divine Liturgy. For more information regarding Greek School, please contact Ms. Sophia Tsangali, the principal, at the Church Office, 703-671-1515 or [stsangali@stkchurch.com](mailto:stsangali@stkchurch.com). Also check our church's website, [saint-katherines.org](http://saint-katherines.org), and look under the Ministries Tab.*

## PARTING DRAPES

*Janet Buck*

### Parting Drapes

How did you survive the frost  
knowing the book would close,  
music would stop, a pulse would quit,  
and you would be left in a room  
surrounded by empty chairs?  
Six long months with death for drapes  
your hands were always drawing them.  
Back and forth, the steel screeched  
as if it were an oil rig  
plumbing a desert for hope.  
You messed with even valances,  
tugging at puffs as if this skirt  
could ever hang over the going bone.  
Inviting in the hiding sun,  
blue batiks of fading skies  
becomes commitment's old career.  
You sign forever in the sand;  
someone kicks it in your eyes.

All palms are idle in the end,  
tortilla husks that speak  
of curdled, passing meals.  
Little scraps of ivory moons  
bequeathed to soil, then covered up.  
Rage drops anchors in the mud  
and dying sails the fitful sea,  
testing every rope we own.  
You kept his college photograph  
in every room you wandered through  
touched the glass as if to print it with a wish.  
Fed him ice chips, spoons of yogurt,  
watched the drips deliver fluid to the sand,  
packed his watch and wedding ring  
took it home and stored it there  
where every clock had lost its dial.  
Adoring him was not a chore  
even when his face was ash.

*Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church offers grief support: GRACE (Grief Recovery: Accepting, Coping, and Evolving). If you are having a difficult time after the loss of a loved one, please call Fr. Costa Pavlakos at 703-671-1515. Our deepest gratitude to Maria Papageorgiou for initiating and continuing this ministry.*

### SAINT PHANOURIOS CORNER\* (LOST AND FOUND)

Please check with a parish council member on  
Sundays for any items left in church.

*\*Saint Phanourios is the patron saint of  
lost items. His feastday is August 27.*

## SHRINE TO THE THEOTOKOS

### SEBASTIAN VISCUSO'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Congratulations to Sebastian Viscuso, son of Fr. Patrick and Presv. Susan, on earning the rank of Eagle Scout. His Eagle Scout service project was designing and building an outdoor shrine to the Theotokos. Take some time to sit on a bench, smell the flowers, and venerate the icon of the Most Holy Theotokos.



Sebastian, thank you for the beautiful shrine. It is certain to be enjoyed for many years to come.



An older gentleman is looking for someone to cook and clean house, in return for room and board. You should have your own car and insurance. You will have your own room and use of the house for your work (outside). I will pay for food. Speaking Greek is a plus. House is not far from Saint Katherine Church. Call 703-820-8575.



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## CONGRATULATIONS!



**DOMENIC ANTHONY CARR**, son of Todd and Tori Carr and grandson of Paraskevi Morlock, graduated with highest distinction in May from the University of Virginia. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering and a minor in Economics. He received the William Everitt Student Excellence award for outstanding achievement within the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. He will attend Georgia Tech as a research assistant to pursue a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering.



**APHRODITI GOUVOUSIS**, daughter of Bill and Petriani Trikas, graduated from East Carolina University in May 2011 with a Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Her focus is Autism Spectrum Disorders. She will begin her faculty position as Assistant Professor at Worcester State University in Massachusetts this fall. Aphroditi has presented her research at several national conferences and her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals.



**ZACHARY KISZKA**, son of Thomas and Flora Kiszka, will attend Virginia Tech this fall following his graduation from Hayfield Secondary School. His accomplishments include over 5 years of productions with the Hayfield Theater program as the sound technician. Zack plans to study accounting.



**ALEXANDRA KOSMAKOS**, daughter of Chris and Marie Kosmakos, graduated from Lake Braddock Secondary School as an Honors Graduate (graduating with above a 4.0 GPA). She will attend Georgia Technical Institute as a Mechanical Engineer major. Alex graduated high school two years early. She earned the Civics Seal for volunteering in the community. She is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars and a Varsity Tennis player at Lake Braddock. Alex was an active member of GOYA.



**DIMITRA KOSMAKOS** daughter of Chris and Marie Kosmakos, graduated from Lake Braddock Secondary School with an AP Degree. She will attend the University of Mary Washington, plans to graduate with a Masters in Education, and expects to teach high school students.



**GALEN MANDES**, son of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Mandes of Vienna, VA, graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point with an honors degree in chemical engineering on May 21. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Infantry on the same day and will report to Ft. Benning, GA for the Infantry Officer Basic Course and Ranger school before proceeding to the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment stationed in Vilseck, Germany.



**CHRISTOPHER GEORGE PAVLAKOS**, son of Fr. Costas and Presv. Pauline Pavlakos, transferred to Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) where he plans to graduate with a Masters in Business Administration and Information Technology.



**JOHN POLIZOS**, son of Karen and Bill Polizos and grandson of John and Koula Polizos, graduated from Langley High School. John will attend Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, where he was accepted in their business and entrepreneurship program. In the future, John plans to combine his business background with a law degree.



**DEMETRI GEORGE PSIHAS**, son of George and Georgia Psihas, graduated from Battlefield High School on June 11.

*You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.  
(Dr. Seuss. 1990. Oh, the Places You'll Go!)*



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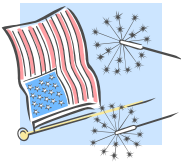
<b>Week 1: July 5-8</b>	<b>Melody Making</b>
<b>Week 2: July 11-15</b>	<b>Baking Basics</b>
<b>Week 3: July 18-22</b>	<b>Crafty Creations</b>
<b>Week 4: July 25-29</b>	<b>Beautiful Earth</b>
<b>Week 5: August 1-5</b>	<b>Exploring Ellada</b>
<b>Week 6: August 8-12</b>	<b>Children Around the World</b>

Payments are refundable with a two-week notice of cancellation. Call 703-963-6020 for information.




# JULY 2011

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
(+ Fast Day)					1 + Vacation Bible Camp (10:00am - 1:30pm)	2
3 <b>3rd Sunday of Matthew</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	4 <b>Independence Day</b> Office Closed 	5 Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Melody Making</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	6 + Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Melody Making</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	7 Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Melody Making</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	8 + Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Melody Making</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	9
10 <b>4th Sunday of Matthew</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	11 Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Baking Basics</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm  7:30pm YAL Deuteri Deutera	12 Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Baking Basics</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	13 + Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Baking Basics</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	14 Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Baking Basics</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	15 + Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Baking Basics</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	16
17 <b>Sunday of the Holy Fathers</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	18 Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Crafty Creations</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	19 Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Crafty Creations</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	20 + <b>Prophet Elias</b> 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy  Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Crafty Creations</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	21 Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Crafty Creations</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	22 + Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Crafty Creations</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	23
24 <b>6th Sunday of Matthew</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy -----	25 Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Beautiful Earth</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	26 Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Beautiful Earth</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	27 + <b>Panteleimon the Martyr</b> 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy  Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Beautiful Earth</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	28 Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Beautiful Earth</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	29 + Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Beautiful Earth</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	30
31 <b>7th Sunday of Matthew</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy						

# AUGUST 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
(+ Fast Day)	1 Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Exploring Ellada</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	2 Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Exploring Ellada</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	3 Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Exploring Ellada</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm 7:00pm Paraklesis	4 Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Exploring Ellada</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	5 Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Exploring Ellada</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm 7:00pm Paraklesis	6 + <b>Holy Transfiguration</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy
7 + <b>8th Sunday of Matthew</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	8 + Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Children Around the World</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm 7:30pm YAL Deuteri Deutera	9 + Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Children Around the World</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	10 + Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Children Around the World</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm 7:00pm Paraklesis	11 + Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Children Around the World</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm	12 + Summer Camp (ages 3-5) <i>Children Around the World</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm 7:00pm Paraklesis	13 + <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Deadline for September DOXA Submissions</div>
14 + <b>9th Sunday of Matthew</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	15 <b>Dormition of the Holy Theotokos</b> 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy	16	17	18	19	20
21 <b>10th Sunday of Matthew</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <b>11th Sunday of Matthew</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	29 + <b>Behanding of Saint John the Baptist</b> 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy	30	31	 <b>SAFEWAY</b> <b>SAFEWAY BENEFITS</b> for Saint Katherine is an ongoing project. Every time you use your red Safeway card, a percentage of your purchase is donated to Saint Katherine, but please note that if Saint Katherine is designated for the benefit. Please call Elvira Garnett at 703-425-3675, if you are interested in this program.		

## PHILOPTOCHOS

THANK YOU to the volunteers who helped Saint Katherine have a successful festival! The weather was beautiful and we had a busy 3 days. It takes a lot of work to have a festival and I urge more of you to become involved. It is a great opportunity to meet people in our community. We will soon begin preparing for the fall festival. Information will be in the Sunday bulletins or contact Andrea Ballard 703-250-5419 or [andreaballard1@verizon.net](mailto:andreaballard1@verizon.net) for more information.

Thank you to Anthony's Restaurant in Falls Church, the site of our end-of-year Philoptochos dinner. We had a wonderful turnout and great time was had by all!

Our next Philoptochos meeting will be held in September. Have a great summer!

## DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

HELLE CHAPTER WISHES all of our Saint Katherine family a good summer. We concluded the current year in June with a wine tasting event at the home of Kathy Cavallo. A good time was had by all who attended. We will begin our new chapter year in September.

We congratulate the following new officers who will serve the chapter for 2011-2012:

President, Jane Moore

Vice President, Katina Doulis

Recording Secretary, Zoe Anagnos

Corresponding Secretary, Barbara Koltos

Treasurer, Jane Polizos

Board of Governors: Chairman, Lynn Francis

Diane Argerson

Kathy Cavallo

This summer, Helle Chapter is sponsoring a "Greek" fitness class taught by Tina Legelis on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm in the Meletis Charuhas Center. The six-week class began on June 15 and will continue through July 20. The cost of the class is \$60. All funds will be donated to Saint Katherine. If you are interested in attending the class during July, please contact Tina Legelis or Lynn Francis for further information.

We welcome new members at any time. Please contact Lynn Francis at 703-978-4370 or at [elfran@cox.net](mailto:elfran@cox.net), if you are interested in joining or reinstating your membership in our chapter. Have a great summer break!

## SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

ON MAY 29, we were privileged to meet one of our Marines, Sgt. Major Michael Gray who visited Saint Katherine and attended the Liturgy. Sgt. Major Gray was in charge of VMU-2 Unit who served in Iraq in 2005-2006. They were the recipients of many of our care packages during this time. In appreciation for our prayers and our care packages, Sgt. Major Gray's unit sent us the American Flag which flew over his unit during our Holy Week. This flag is now on display in the education center.

Sgt. Major was hosted by the Georgeadis family and several members of our parish. He left with us many wonderful thoughts as well as his love and appreciation of our community.

Sgt. Major Gray told us that he grew up Lutheran and comes from a military family who served our country. His father, who served in three wars, told his children that he hoped they would keep their Lutheran faith. But if they choose another faith, he said, "Always make sure that whatever faith you choose, that your faith has feet."

Sgt. Major says, "Your church indeed has feet for you all have walked your faith. Your packages have walked the streets of Baghdad, Falleujah and Mosul. Your bags with the sticker that says, you are in our thoughts and prayers are still being circulated among the troops."

The Support Our Troops Program has indeed been successful in reaching out to our young men and women who courageously serve our country. We would like to thank all of you who have donated to this program.

We ask that you continue to support our troops by making a donation to the Saint Katherine Support the Troops program. Our young men and women are still in harm's way and a package from home means so much to them.

## BOOKSTORE

PLEASE VISIT OUR CHURCH BOOKSTORE in the Meletis Charuhas Center after Liturgy. We carry a wide assortment of Orthodox books, icons, and other items to enrich your spiritual life.

If you would like to visit during the week, please contact Sophia Tsangali at the Church Office (703-671-1515).

Thank you for your continued support and patronage.

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*(Continued from page 1)*

Rejoice, thou through whom creation becomes new!

Rejoice, thou through whom the Creator becomes a babe!

Rejoice, unwedded bride!

The Paraklesis Service is a service of intercession. We ask the Theotokos for her prayers. We sing, "O, holy Theotokos, save us." Yes, the Lord is the one to judge and grant salvation, but let us not be remiss of the saving power of the Theotokos.

I hope all of you will come and experience the power of prayer to our Holy Mother during the Lenten period of the Dormition of the Theotokos, August 1-15. Come, celebrate, be uplifted, and be assured that the Holy Theotokos prays with us and for us.

*F. Costa*

# REGISTRY

## Baptisms

*Julian Athanasios (May 30)*  
son of *Athanasios and Michele Varlas*  
Godparents: *Panayiota Tsiaoushis and Vangelis Varlas*

*Vasiliki Fotini (June 11)*  
daughter of *Peter and Faye Boosalis*  
Godparents: *Demosthenes and Maria Zissios*

*Giorgios Petro (June 18)*  
son of *Peter and Demetra Psihas*  
Godparent: *Tasso George McCarthy*

*Luca Fehmi (June 18)*  
son of *Hasan Kocahan and Stella Stenson*  
Godparent: *Catherine Mayer*

*Luke William (June 19)*  
son of *Andreas and Nicole Baltatzis*  
Godparent: *Emmanuel Antonarakis*

*Christopher David (June 26)*  
son of *Brian and Joanna Meadows*  
Godparents: *Hera Maria Hadjidamianou*

*Michael Arthur (June 26)*  
son of *Arthur and Tara Lambros*  
Godparents: *Carolyn and Ryan Maloney*

## Chrismations

*Micah Merim Ogtai Ghebremedhin (May 30)*  
Sponsor: *Spiro Chervis*

*Efstathia Lula R. Hagos*  
Sponsor: *Spiro Chervis (May 30)*

## Weddings

*Efstathia Lula R. Hagos*  
and  
*Micah Merim Ogtai Ghebremedhin (June 11)*  
Koumbaros: *Yelena Zeru*

*Jennifer Carol Boewen*  
and  
*George Christopher Greanias (June 18)*  
Koumbaroi: *Nicholas and Claudia Bomicino*

*Jessica Feldman*  
and  
*Alex Taousakis (June 25)*  
Koumbaroi: *Ellena and Marcus Talbott*

*Maria Dinkjian*  
and  
*Konstandinos A. Andreou (June 26)*  
Koumbaroi: *Chrysillios Orphanides and Sema Wessaian*

*Catherine M. Panagopoulos*  
and  
*Samuel R. Barlow (June 26)*  
Koumbaroi: *Nicholas and Maria Liappis*

*Congratulations!*

## Funerals

*Nicholas Tsimbidis (May 2)*  
*William "Bill" George Dukas (May 27)*  
*Eleftherios Moussas (May 27)*

*May their memories be eternal.*

να μὴν υπήρχε Ἑλληνισμὸς καὶ Ὀρθοδοξία, ἐπειδὴ χιλιάδες χριστιανοὶ γίνονταν Μουσουλμάνοι. Το γεγονός αυτό απειλούσε να κατακλείσει ὀλοκληρῆ τὴν Ἑλλάδα, ὥστε κι αὐτοὶ οἱ ἴδιοι οἱ Τούρκοι ἀνησύχησαν. Ὅλα αὐτὰ βέβαια συνέβαιναν ἐπειδὴ βασιλεύει παντοῦ ἡ ἀμάθεια. Ἡ δε φτώχεια μάλιστα τὸν τόπο. Πλήθος παιδιὰ ἔμεναν ἀβάφτιστα, ἀφοῦ ἱερεῖς δὲν υπήρχαν. Ἡ κοινωνικὴ στέρηση ἦταν γενικὴ. Ἡ δε ζωὴ σὲς ορεινὲς περιοχὲς ἦταν τόσο βάρβαρη, που φοβόντουσαν νὰ πλησιάσουν στα βουνά.

Σ' αὐτὸν τὸν κόσμον κήρυξε ὁ πατρο-Κοσμῆς, με λόγο καὶ με ἔργα. Ἐλεγε, «Καλύτερον νὰ θανατώσης ἑκατὸν ἀνθρώπους, παρά νὰ ἀφήσης ἓνα παιδίον ἀβάφτιστον νὰ ἀποθάνῃ». Οἱ πλούσιοι τότε συγκινήθηκαν καὶ ἀφιέρωσαν σὲς ἐκκλησίες πάνω ἀπὸ 4.000 κολυμβήθρες, ὅπου τὰ Ἑλληνόπουλα ἀρχισαν νὰ βαφτίζονται.

«Χτίστε σχολεῖα, χτίστε σχολεῖα... Ὁ Χριστὸς λειτουργεῖται στα φῶτη ὄχι στα σκότη. Νοιώστε το... Το Γένος μας ἀγρίεψε ἀπὸ τὴν ἀμάθεια... Καλύτερα νὰ ἔχῃς Ἑλληνικὸν Σχολεῖον, παρά νὰ ἔχῃς βρῦσες καὶ ποτάμια...». Ἐτσι ἐπέτυχε νὰ κτιστοῦν πάνω ἀπὸ 210 Ἑλληνικὰ Σχολεῖα καὶ ἄλλα 1.100 ἀρχισαν νὰ λειτουργοῦν.

*(Συνεχίζεται στο ἐπόμενο τεύχος)*

## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

**Maria Roeber, RN, Update from Tanzania.** After the moving commissioning ceremony at Saint Sophia Cathedral on May 22, Maria left for Tanzania on June 6, 2011 to begin her missionary work. Here is her first report from the field:

*I will be in Tanzania for a first term of at least 22 months. My responsibilities the first year are to learn the language and culture, so I will be seeking out a language instructor who speaks Kiswahili and focusing most of my daily time on learning as much Kiswahili as quickly as possible. I am also attending daily Matins and Vespers, and Liturgy four days a week; I hope to be more efficient and independent when it comes to interacting with patients once the Orthodox clinic is reopened. Right now we are waiting for the Tanzanian government to grant approval for us to open, so I ask for everyone's prayers about this. I learned last night from Michael Pagedas (another OCMC missionary) that the church here has no Sunday School at all, so Michael and I may try to work on developing some sort of curriculum for them and ask some of the mothers if they would be interested in teaching. I am quickly realizing that being a missionary means being a servant, and doing whatever work God gives you to do—even if it's not what you thought you'd be doing! I came to be a nurse, but there are still many ways in which God can use me! Glory to Him for all things!*

Maria's commissioning service can be seen on the first page of the OCMC website, <http://ocmc.org>.

**Gregory McKinney Now Fully Funded for Alaska Mission Trip.** Our own Gregory McKinney and his OCMC youth mission team will be leaving for Kodiak Island, Alaska on July 28, 2011. This team will work with the local Old Harbor Tribe to host a camp for children and teenagers. Greg would like to thank the community of Saint Katherine for their support and prayers. We await his reports from the field.

**Volunteer Opportunity at the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC).** The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC), located in St. Augustine, FL, is seeking 5 volunteers to join their Thank You Calling Team. We ask that individuals on this team call a monthly list of OCMC donors and thank them for their gifts on behalf of OCMC. Solicitation is not a part of this program. Training and orientation will be provided and calls can be made from the OCMC offices or from home if the volunteer has unlimited calling. The time commitment is 3-4 hours per month and the volunteer does not have to reside in north Florida, as information can be provided via email. To find out more information or to volunteer to become a part of this team, contact Kenneth Kidd, Annual Gifts Officer, at 904-829-5132, ext. 161 or [kenny@ocmc.org](mailto:kenny@ocmc.org).

**Guatemala Mission Trips.** Because of high interest, Saint Katherine will send two teams to the Hogar Rafael Ayau Orphanage in Guatemala City. The first team, led by Fr. Costa and Nicole Leontsinis, will be from November 3-10,

2011. Their team project will be a maintenance project to be assigned upon their arrival. They have already had their initial orientation meeting and are busy planning for their trip. The team members include: Fr. Costas Pavlakos, Spiritual Leader; Nicole Leontsinis, Team Leader; Deacon Harry Chelpon; Maria Chelpon; Alex Carr; Jennifer Carr; Korinna Garbis; Jerry Rich, DDS; Betty Slanta; and Mary Stathopoulos. Another team will go to Guatemala in January.

**Food for the Homeless Shelter.** On Tuesday, May 10, the parents of our Paideia Preschool served dinner at the shelter and on Tuesday, June 28 our Vacation Bible School served lunch. We encourage all organizations at Saint Katherine to take a month. Last year, we covered ten months. We hope to cover all 12 months this year. So far, we have the first six months covered. Thanks to all who have participated. If your organization is interested in participating, please contact John Demakis ([jgd11@erols.com](mailto:jgd11@erols.com)) for more information.

**Water Well in Kolkata, India Completed.** Sister Nectaria of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Girls Orphanage in Kolkata, India has informed us that thanks to the generosity of many, the well at the Orphanage has been completed and solved a big problem for the Orphanage.

**Clothing for the Homeless Shelter.** We continue to collect clothing and toiletries for men and women at the Bailey's Crossroads Homeless Shelter. Clothes may be new or used, but must be clean. Toiletries should be unopened. There is a collection receptacle in the foyer of the Meletis Charuhas Center. Please continue to be generous.

**Samaritan's Feet.** We will collect children's shoes during the entire month of August, so that the children will have new shoes to wear to school starting in September. They are asking for children's sizes 5-6-7, male and female. The shoes should be gym/sneakers/tennis shoes. There will be a special bin in the foyer of our community center. The shoes will be distributed to children in the Washington DC area. For many children this will be their first pair of new shoes.

**OCAMPR Conference: The Science and Theology of Conception.** Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology and Religion (OCAMPR) will have its annual meeting at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA on November 4 and 5. The topic of conception will be discussed from the scientific, anthropologic, and theological perspectives. We will also have the relics and a miracle working icon of Saint Anna, the mother of our Blessed Theotokos and the patron saint of conception and difficult pregnancies. Further information can be found on the OCAMPR website, <http://OCAMPR.org>, or from John Demakis, [jgd11@erols.com](mailto:jgd11@erols.com).

## STEWARDSHIP

SHOWN BELOW is a list of families and individuals who participated in the 2011 Saint Katherine Stewardship Program as of May 31, 2011. Thank you for responding to the needs of our church.

Our stewardship pledge form is on page 15. If you have not yet sent a pledge, please fill out the form and send it to the office as soon as possible. Alternatively, if you wish, you may pledge online today at [www.saint-katherines.org/online-donations](http://www.saint-katherines.org/online-donations). Our Church and community depend on your stewardship commitment.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Vassilopoulos at 703-671-1515 or [avassilopoulos@stkchurch.com](mailto:avassilopoulos@stkchurch.com).

Donald and Irenelee Adams	Mr George Caridakis and	Mrs Antoinette Demeres	Mrs Angelina Georgelas	M/M Apostolos Karageorge
Mr Frank Agnos	Mrs Casandra Becker	M/M Christian Demeter	Mr Nicholas Georges	M/M Peter Karageorge
M/M John Agnos	M/M Alexander Carr	M/M Demetrios Demetriou	Ms Mary Georghiou	M/M Dimitrios Karamanis
M/M Nicholas Agnos	M/M Dumitru Carstea	Ms Elpida Demetriou	M/M Frank Gerow, Jr	M/M John Karamanis
Mr Anthony Alatis	M/M Adam Caskey	M/M Lambros Demetriou	Mrs Helen Gianelos	Mrs Helen Karambelas
M/M James Alatis	Mrs Anna Chaconas	M/M Peter Demetriou	Mr Omeros Giannakos	M/M Nick Karanikas
Ms Marianne Alberti	M/M Christopher Chaconas	M/M Demetrios Demson	M/M Constantinos Giannoukos	Mrs Lula Karas
M/M Dimitri Alexson	Mr Paul Chaconas	Ms Venetia Demson	Mrs Helen Glekas	M/M Peter Karounos
M/M Peter Aliferis	Ms Georgia Chakeris	Ms Nancy Deoudes	M/M Michael Goldsmith	Mrs Rene Katsaitis
M/M James Anagnos	M/M Pete Chambers	Mrs Helen Derzis	M/M Arthur Gomez	M/M Anthony Katsakis
M/M Larry Argerson	M/M Peyton Chandler	Mrs Mary Diakides	M/M Dimitrios Goranitis	M/M Eythimos Katsapis
Ms Helen Anderson	M/M Demetris Charalambous	Miss Alexandra Diapoulis	M/M John Gouvris	M/M Dean Katsikes
M/M John Andre	M/M George Charuhas	Mrs Kalliope Diapoulis	M/M Peter Gouvris	M/M George Kavarligos
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M/M Paul Anson	Miss Antonia Chelpon	Mrs Georgia Dimitras	M/M Corey Greeneltch	Mrs Demetra Tsantes
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*(Continued on page 14)*

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## THE FALLING ASLEEP OF THE VIRGIN—AUGUST 15

*Rev. Theodore Chelpon*

THE FALLING ASLEEP (KOIMISIS) OF THE THEOTOKOS is the most important of the many feasts of the Theotokos (Virgin Mary) in all of Orthodoxy. The belief that the body of Mary, which remained inviolate after she gave birth, never experienced decay in the tomb, and was assumed directly into heaven, was already prevalent in the early Christian community. Though lacking a basis in Scriptures, it has a solid tradition in the hymnology of our church. While it is “pious belief” rather than dogma or an article of faith, it is, nevertheless, honored as if it were doctrine.

The great feast of the Falling Asleep or *Kimisis* was instituted in the sixth century. Its icon’s prologue is found in oral tradition. The Archangel Gabriel announces to Mary that her death is near, and she asks to see the apostles again, prays on the Mount of Olives, and prepares her death bed. This is when the apostles gather in Jerusalem to mourn.

Looking at the icon, we notice Christ behind the coffin holding his mother’s soul. In many icons of the Kimisis, an angel, who cuts off the hands of an impious priest who wants to upend the bier, is in the foreground. On the left, Peter holds the censer while Paul prays at the foot of the bier in the presence of angels, apostles, bishops, church fathers, and women. At the top of many icons, Mary is borne by angels up to heaven whose gates are opened. Often two buildings are seen, Mary’s house and the Temple of Jerusalem. The apostles are seen on clouds floating toward Jerusalem where Mary has summoned them. An extraordinary feast requires an extraordinary icon.



### SPOTLIGHT ON STEWARDSHIP

When looking up the definition of the word Stewardship, I discovered some interesting facts. Although variations of the definition exist throughout the years, Wikipedia has the following to say about the core meanings of the word Stewardship.

- + As recognized by the Romans = Duty of Service
- + As recognized by the English = Responsibility
- + As recognized by the Greeks = Management as it relates to economics or household management

Interestingly enough, we can put all this together as Stewardship relates to the church meaning Stewardship is our duty of service and responsibility for the management of our House of God.

If you have not completed your Stewardship pledge for this year, please do so. You can always make your Stewardship contribution online at [www.saint-katherines.org/stewardship](http://www.saint-katherines.org/stewardship).

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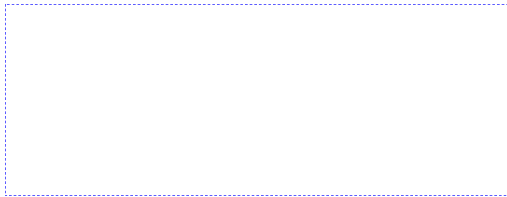


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